

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00935 080307Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9296
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 935

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SP
SUBJ: COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING PSOE VISIT TO MAURITANIA

REF: A) NOUAKCHOTT 850, B) MADRID 3333

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED-FOLLOWING FOUR-DAY VISIT WHICH INCLUDED PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE AND LENGTHY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS, SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) AND MAURITANIAN PEOPLES PARTY ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE PLEDGING STRENGTHENED MAURITANIAN-SPANISH COOPERATION. DELEGATION WAS LED BY DEPUTY FROM MALAGA RAFAEL BALLESTEROS AND INCLUDED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS LUIS FAJARDO AND EMILIO MENENDES. DELEGATION VISITED NOUADHIBOU, NOUAKCHOTT AND KAEDI AND, ALTHOUGH NOT MEMDIOHD IN COMMUNIQUE, ALSO VISITED LAGUERA IN NEW 13TH REGION (FORMERLY SPANISH SAHARA). DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZED IN COMMUNIQUE THEIR AGREEMENT ON LIBERATION STRUGGLES OF PALESTINIAN, NAMIBIAN, ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLES AND ON POLICY OF QUOTE ACTIVE NEUTRALITY VIS A VIS ANTAGONISTIC BLOCS END QUOTE. COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCED USE OF PRESSURES AND OPPRESSION IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SOVEREIGN NATIONS, BUT THERE WAS NO OVERT REFERENCE TO CURRENT SAHARAN CONFLICT. END
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UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT: MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS' MEETING WITH PSOE DELEGATION LASTED OVER THREE HOURS. IN BRIEF AIRPORT CONVERSATION WITH ME HE CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS CONGENIAL AND PRODUCTIVE. HE DESCRIBED PSOE DELEGATES AS YOUNG IDEALISTIC INNOCENTS WHO WERE RELATIVELY UNINFORMED ON

TRUE SITUATION IN WESTERN SAHARA. HE STATED THAT HE HOPED THEY NOW HAVE A MORE SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUE. OTHER GIRM OFFICIALS ALSO DEPICTED VISIT AS VALUABLE INsofar AS IT OPENED NEW CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH PSOE. THEY ASCRIBE PREVIOUS PSOE PRO-POLISARIO STANCE AS DUE MAINLY TO LACK OF INFORMATION. THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, ANTICIPATE ANY DRAMATIC PSOE POLICY SHIFTS IN NEAR FUTURE AS RESULT OF VISIT. INNOCUOUS BUT FRIENDLY COMMUNIQUE SEEMS TO CONFIRM IMPRESSION (REF B) THAT PSOE FOR ITS PART HAS DECIDED TO DOWNPLAY PRO-POLISARIO SYMPATHIES, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, AND EXPAND CONTACT WITH MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN COUNTERPARTS. KRYZA

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